

## The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew Preschool

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The Montgomery County Council is continuing to defy the science that is clearly evident to anyone who is paying attention. The positivity rate in this county has been below 5% for months now; per the CDC:

*On May 12, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) advised governments that before reopening, rates of positivity in testing (ie, out of all tests conducted, how many came back positive for COVID-19) of **should remain at 5% or lower for at least 14 days.***

Fortunately, this illness is NOT affecting our young population. In the state of Maryland, not one child has died between the ages of 0-9. It is clearly documented that over 80% of children that contract Covid-19 are asymptomatic.

It's time that the County Council pay attention to these facts. They should not be denied; arbitrary orders to limit class sizes is an insult to all who live in this county. Fifteen people in a class that easily accommodates 28 is pointless. When the children that are fortunate enough to leave school at the end of the day go home with mom or dad, many stop in at Costco, where there could be hundreds of people in the store....what is the point of punishing the children and the schools?

Restricting class sizes, and therefore enrollment, has been incredibly detrimental to our small, private Preschool. Teachers and Aides are out of jobs; our budget is strained almost to a breaking point. *Worst of all*, the mental, emotional, and social development of countless children in this county is being completely stifled. There will be enormous ramifications from these pointless orders.

Please do the right thing. All schools need to be back in full session.

L.M. Puskar

Preschool Director